

# Home Fire Sprinkler Talking Points

- ☀ Home Fire Sprinklers save lives by reducing flame, heat, and smoke of a fire. They activate in the early stages of a fire and prevent flashover, a dangerous stage of a fire when everything in the room bursts into flames. Toxic smoke in an unprotected home can fill the house killing people far from the fire.
- ☀ Home Fire Sprinklers are activated by the high heat of a nearby fire. When the heat of a nearby fire (about 155° F) reaches a fire sprinkler it activates. Water from the attached pipe flows through the sprinkler and onto the fire. Generally only one or two sprinklers activate in a house fire.
- ☀ Smoke, fire alarms, and other fire sprinklers do not activate a fire sprinkler. Each sprinkler activates individually by high heat. They do not all activate at once. Smoke does not activate a fire sprinkler so smoke alarms are still an important part of home fire safety. It is possible to have smoke without flames.
- ☀ Most home fire sprinklers are placed in the ceiling with a concealing plate or are mounted on the side wall. The concealing plate falls away at about 140° F to uncover the fire sprinkler. Most home fire sprinklers are specially painted white or almond to blend into the ceiling or wall; some are even wood grain in appearance.
- ☀ Home Fire Sprinklers reduce damage from a fire. Fire Sprinklers activate when the fire is relatively small, use less water than fire hoses (94% less) to control the same fire and usually only one or two sprinklers are activated. Mist sprinklers use 99% less water than traditional sprinklers. Restoring a home after a fire with fire sprinklers costs 89% less than one without fire sprinklers and generally only takes one or two days. (Costs and water usage come from *The Scottsdale Report*, a 10-year study of home fire sprinklers.)
- ☀ The average cost of installing home fire sprinklers is \$1.61 per square foot. This value includes design, permits, tanks and local requirements. Home fire sprinklers are generally not required in attics, garages, bathrooms or closets. (*Home Fire Sprinkler Costs Assessment report*, Fire Protection Research Foundation)